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**Quarterly Performance Report
January –March 2004 (2nd Quarter FY04)
Americas' Accountability/Anti-Corruption Project**

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I. Improved Government Policies and Practices to Reduce Corruption

Southwestern University Symposium—In February, AAA co-sponsored the Symposium on Corruption in Latin America with the Law School of Southwestern University in California. AAA Speakers were Gerald Caiden, Roberto de Michelle, Valeria Merino and Edmundo Berumen. Participation was over subscribed with some 100 attorneys, professors, students and representatives of the international community in attendance. From the response to the conference, it is readily apparent that there is wide interest in the issue of corruption and how it can be attacked. A byproduct of the conference is the forthcoming issue of Southwestern Journal of Law and Trade in the Americas, which will dedicate one main section to the papers from the conference, including an article by AAA staff members, Gerardo Berthin and Patricio Maldonado.

Political Party Finance--In February and March, AAA continued work on development of a Technical Assistance Module (TAM) on political party finance. AAA teams traveled to Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina and Chile to conduct field interviews with more than 20 key informants in each country. The TAM will be published early in the next quarter.

During the quarter, the six TAMs developed previously were being printed and recorded on CDs for distribution throughout the region. In the remaining months of the project, AAA will focus on replicating best practices as described in the TAMs, through a variety of fora and information technology applications, including the project website, ResponDanet.

Newsletters

The 40th issue of the electronic Spanish-language newsletter, *ResponDabilidad*, was posted on ResponDanet in January and sent to subscribers. Articles featured included:

- United Nations Approves Convention Against Corruption
- Ecuador: Anticorruption Commission Presents 4-Year Report
- Colombia: New director of the Anti-Corruption Program
- 2003 Latin American Index on Budget Transparency
- Colombia: 2003 Integrity Index of National Public Institutions

ResponDanet

The number of hits on ResponDanet for the quarter was a bit higher than the same quarter last year—still comfortably over one million. Cumulative hits since April 1998, when ResponDanet was inaugurated, total 13,458,149.

AAA is continuing to explore potential prospects for securing sustainability of ResponDanet beyond the conclusion of the Task Order. These include universities, NGOs and international donor organizations.

Main Website and Sub Sites	Hits Previous Four Project Fiscal Year Quarters					Current Quarter Jan-Mar FY 2004
	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2003	FY 2003	Total for Four Previous Quarters	
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th		
	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter		
	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep		
PSI Net	1,087,330	1,046,339	1,241,578	1,095,156	4,214,087	1,023,916
AAA Flash-Sp.	54,902	27,159	23,992	45,262	123,347	52,542
AAA Flash-Eng	78,695	57,074	50,629	66,012	226,770	60,671
ACSF	11,293	6,002	13,363	10,981	43,580	13,021
ACWB	969	1,020	1,157	932	4,078	1,493
Visitor Survey	2,905	2,714	2,720	2,200	11,092	2,673
TOTAL	1,236,164	1,147,489	1,333,712	1,220,546	4,628,733	1,154,316
Avg. Hits/Month	412,055	382,496	444,571	406,849	385,727	384,772

II. Support to Missions

Panama—In January, AAA Program Director, Patricio Maldonado, traveled to Panama to discuss with the USAID Mission support for a country anti-corruption assessment that would address Mission needs relative to this crosscutting issue. Mr. Maldonado also met with CSOs to assess their capacity related to engaging in anti-corruption programs.

Following on this consultancy, in early February, Mr. Maldonado, AAA Democracy and Governance Advisor Gerardo Berthin and AAA Governance Special Programs Manager Sylvia Rodriguez conducted a series of workshops for CSOs on corruption issues and lessons learned derived from the Technical Assistance Module (TAM) on citizen participation and other AAA field experiences. The AAA team also advised the CSOs on how to develop and prepare proposals for submission to USAID relative to increasing government transparency and accountability.

At the end of March, AAA dispatched a team to Panama to conduct the country anti-corruption assessment, which will be delivered to the Mission by the end of April. AAA also conducted a two-day training program with 20 representatives of CSOs and NGOs in Panama. The workshop's built on the February seminars with specific training and technical assistance for developing anti-corruption proposals (small-grants) for USAID funding. Mr. Maldonado and Ms. Rodriguez implemented the workshop and in fact assisted local CSO organizations in the review and final drafting of seven specific proposals for USAID consideration. The training was well received by an enthusiastic cross section of the CSO/NGO community. It appears that AAA has instilled a new vibrancy in pro-reform advocates in the country and that greater involvement in anti-corruption programming will evolve as a result.

Guatemala—AAA is continuing to provide support to the USAID anti-corruption initiative in Guatemala. The inauguration of President Oscar Berger, in January 2004 and establishment of the Office of the High Commissioner for Transparency creates new opportunities for the new government and civil society. AAA consultant Alfonso Chan

has been providing technical assistance to the Office of the Comptroller, despite a difficult environment brought about by the indictment of the former Comptroller General. Five pilot audits have been conducted in accordance with international standards and auditors have been provided training that will increase their technical capacity.

In addition, AAA consultant Roberto de Michele, an expert on the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption (IACC), has provided technical assistance on the functions and structure of the new office of the Transparency Commissioner. He is training a team of GOG officials on meeting the 2005 requirements for IACC compliance and he will be replicating AAA's TAM on CSO monitoring of country compliance with the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption by training a group of CSOs to prepare and submit, to the Organization of America States (OAS), a civil society report on GOG IACC implementation.

Casals & Associates, Inc., the contractor for the bi-lateral USAID project with the GOG will provide training to civil society on social auditing of government programs, following completion of a detailed inventory of current programs in late April. This support will be modeled on the practices elaborated in the TAM, *Citizen Participation to Strengthen Transparency in Latin America and the Caribbean*.

III. Strengthen Civil Society's Oversight Role in Reducing Corruption

Anti-Corrupción sin Fronteras [Anti-Corruption Without Borders (ACSF)]

ACSF continues to disseminate information and tools to more than 100 civil society organizations throughout Latin America and the English-speaking Caribbean, as well as to specific listserves in the Dominican Republic and Guatemala. Of particular interest has been announcements on the availability of distance learning on local government issues as well as on strategic planning, such as that offered by the Inter-American Bank on Development of Regional Organizational Capacity. Information on fellowships and opportunities to participate in donor programs also are important components of the information function. For example, CSOs has been invited to compete in a best practices competition that will be presented during the Mayors Conference, in Miami, in June 2004. National and international organizations continue to contact ACSF to access its ability to reach out to large numbers of organizations for dissemination of materials of interest to NGOs and CSOs. Among these are the Open Society Institute, the Center for Public Integrity, Transparency International and the World Bank Institute.